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Cc: Mylott, Richard[Mylott.Richard@epa.gov]
From: Castillo, Mariano
Sent: Wed 8/12/2015 12:56:35 PM
Subject: CNN Wednesday on Gold King Miney/Navajo Nation

Good morning Robert, Bill and Rich,

A topic of interest for me today is how the Navajo Nation is being affected, and how they are reacting following the Gold King Mine spill.

Reaching out early in hopes of getting a statement from EPA on how the agency is working with the Navajo Nation, and a response to the accusations being lobbied by the Navajo President, as seen below.

Appreciate your help thus far, and happy to work with you again today.

Best,

Mariano

U.S. EPA tells Navajo People to Waive their Rights

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - The U.S. EPA has been seeking signatures from the Navajo People on Standard Form No. 95 which, if signed, will waive future claims against the U.S. EPA.

"The Federal Government is asking our People to waive their future rights because they know without the waiver they will be paying millions to our People. This is simple; the Feds are protecting themselves at the expense of the Navajo people and it is outrageous." said President Begaye

Standard Form No. 95 states the following:

I CERTIFY THAT THE AMOUNT OF CLAIM COVERS ONLY DAMAGES AND INJURIES CAUSED BY THE INCIDENT ABOVE AND AGREE TO ACCEPT SAID AMOUNT IN "FULL SATISFACTION AND FINAL SETTLEMENT OF THIS CLAIM"

All signors will be limited to the specific claims filed, and any future claims for injuries caused by the Gold King Mine will be waived.

"The U.S. EPA has admitted they are at fault and stated this disaster will last for decades. This is unacceptable. The damages to our People will be long term and the Navajo Nation will not settle for pennies. I have consistently stated that the Navajo people deserve to be compensated for every penny lost. I will not allow fine print to let U.S. EPA off the hook. The Navajo people deserve better from the United States government." said President Begaye

The U.S. EPA has been attending local public hearings across the Navajo Nation, in Shiprock, Aneth and Olijato and passing out Standard Form No. 95 to participants urging them to sign the form. The Navajo Nation Attorney General has advised that Form No. 95 will settle for current claims and preclude all future claims from the spill.

"We are also concerned for our neighbors, and whether this Standard Form No. 95 is being circulated in other communities. This is not just hurting the Navajo People but all those in the Four Corners Region. Think twice before you sign this form, we must hold U.S. EPA fully accountable for their negligence." said Vice-President Nez